



Cats’ C-team gains bonus reps

By Joel Priest
Special to the Drum

Proverbial “new school” ended pre-Christmas prep basketball play inside a literal old school — currently called Bayfield Middle School — on Saturday, Dec. 17.

With only a minimum five players at his disposal, former Ignacio guard Trae Seibel found himself calling shots — or calling for more of them — as the boss of IHS’s C-team at a five-team, round-robin tournament that also drew crews from 4A Durango, 3A Pagosa Springs, 2A Mancos, and BHS.

The young Bobcats battled the Wolverines right off the bat in 8 a.m. action (early games took place inside Bayfield High’s gym). Shorthanded to the tune of 5-on-10, IHS fell behind 16-3 after the opening six-minute quarter, but rallied back to 24-15 at halftime before falling 45-22.

John House registered 11 points for the Cats, but the Wolverines got 11 apiece from forward John Fisher and guards Luke Webb and Conner Kennedy, who sank three three-pointers.

Sinking a trio of triples himself, House paced Ignacio in its later game against DHS inside the BMS gym, but the Demons — with a lead trimmed to 25-17 late in the third quarter — held on, 34-23.

House notched another 11, Angel Ortiz added six, Adam Herrera four (after scoring nine versus Bayfield), and Sam Mestas two. David Storey scored two points against BHS, meaning all of Seibel’s boys — who all double, normally, as JV players under Shane Seibel — earned scorebook ink by their names.



photo Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio C-teamer David Storey hoists an attempt against Durango during the Bobcats’ last action of 2011, a five-team tournament in Bayfield on Dec. 17.

Perhaps wary of their limited foul supply, Ignacio went a combined meaning both games 7-for-14 at the free-throw line on the day. By comparison, full-benched Bayfield hit 25-of-36 in wins over IHS and, later, MHS.

‘C’ sides from 4A Montezuma-Cortez and 2A Dolores were also set to play, but two days earlier a tragic death close to both schools — especially the Lady Bears’

program, as far as it pertained to Ignacio and the San Juan Basin League — led administrators to cancel their teams’ attendance.

Ignacio’s first SJBL game of 2012 — after the boys’ varsity plays in the Aztec (N.M.) Tigers’ “Rumble in the Jungle” while the Lady Cats are in the Webb Toyota/Kirtland (N.M.) Central Basin Girls’ Invitational on Jan. 10, 2012.

Cats crack top 20 at Warrior

By Joel Priest
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It’s one of those sporting events that often separates the men from the boys.

But it also motivates those boys to return in future seasons as they grow into young men.

Ignacio brought Bobcats on both ends of that spectrum to test their mettle at the Warrior Classic, held Dec. 16 – 17 inside the facilities of host 5A Grand Junction Central High.

The result was a notable improvement over last season’s appearance; three wrestlers earned top-six status, and IHS — which placed 24th in 2010 — finished in a three-way tie for 19th with 3A programs Hotchkiss and Rifle.

As expected, the talented trio of 126-pounder Alex Pena, 152-pounder Teagan Overturf, and 195-pounder Colton Wyatt accounted for the majority of Ignacio’s 59 team points, 43 coming on Day 1 and leaving the Cats alone in 20th place.

Seeing the most mat time of all was Pena, who won five and — as in 2010 — lost two, a 3-1 decision to Central’s Jacob Rubalcaba on Day 1, and a 3-2 loss to Grand Junction’s Jacob Trujillo on Day 2 in the third-place match. Pena’s final win was similarly narrow: a 4-3 defeat of 4A Montezuma-Cortez’s Ryan Daves.

As wrestling fans around town know by now, Alex Pena’s only two losses in 2010-11 came at the Warrior, and seemingly helped him re-focus for the stretch drive of his third state-championship season.

One weight down, Pena’s freshman brother Iaasic went 3-2 at the Classic, recovering from an early 7-3 loss to 5A Denver East’s Maya Nelson. He scored a quality 11-7 decision over Ben Pridy of 3A Olathe before being eliminated by RHS’s Issac Rider.

Overturf went 4-2 in his return to the Warrior, and placed fifth after beating 5A Fountain-Fort

Carson’s Anthony Martin-Walker 11-4. His win over Martin-Walker was his first non-pin result, win or lose (as with Holdren and Padilla), in 2011-12. Son of IHS skipper Bob Overturf, the senior won his first three by pin, but then lost to Central’s Willy Holdren and Derick Padilla of 5A Rocky Mountain (Fort Collins).

Wyatt also began the tournament strong, with pins of 3A Cedaredge’s Garrett Humble and 4A Montrose’s Cole Panter, before also ending with a fifth-place finish. Eventual champ Rip Price of 4A Air Academy (Colorado Springs) sent Wyatt into the survival stages with a 19-6 major decision, and Wyatt then defaulted to Paonia’s Morgan Rieder before having the favor returned by F-FC’s Tracy Hancock.

Ranked No. 1 in Class 2A coming in, PHS took second (155.5 points) in the team standings, trailing the 175 of Roosevelt (Johnstown), the No. 6 in 4A. Unranked Central tied RMHS’s Lobos — 5A’s No. 10 — for third (152). Grand Junction came in fifth (140), followed by 5A No. 7 Arvada West (131), 4A No. 10 Palisade (130), 4A No. 3 Pueblo South (129), 4A No. 8 Montrose (114.5), and 3A’s No. 2 OHS (109.5).

Ignacio senior Jeff Herrera earned the Bobcats’ other victory at the Classic, via a tense 2-1 win over Center’s Gustavo Nungaray at 132 pounds, but then succumbed to Paonia’s Ty Coats by pin and to A-West’s Luke McDonald by 18-5 major decision.

At 106, freshman Keith Joosten was pinned twice in his two matches — first by Roosevelt’s Dustin Hayden, and secondly by 4A Pueblo Centennial’s Brandon Vigil-Archuleta.

Sophomore Christian Knoll fared slightly better, though going 0-2 at 170. Andrew Vigil of 4A Eagle Valley (Gypsum) notched a pin, but Knoll went the distance in a 12-6 loss to D-

East’s Dante Vigil.

Freshman Klayson Smith went 0-1 at 145 pounds — up from his usual 138 — losing to 5A Fruita Monument senior Steven Tausch.

And at 160 pounds, freshman Blaine Mickey’s first Classic also ended with an 0-2 education. Both matches were ended by pin; Hotchkiss’ Polo Ibarra did the deed first, with Nelson Bell of 3A Coal Ridge (New Castle) following suit.

First up in 2012 for the Cats will be Pagosa Springs’ annual Rocky Mountain Invitational on Jan. 7.

Nucla, the only other San Juan Basin League team competing besides Ignacio, finished 29th (34 points), with Cedaredge (14) finishing 35th and last, and Roosevelt extending their record Warrior success streak to a sixth straight title.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS: 106 — Payton Tawater, Arvada West (2-0 over Monte Vista’s Diondre Garcia); 113 — Bennie Pachello, AW (pins Pueblo East’s Willie Franklin); 120 — Kyle McCririe, Douglas County (Castle Rock) (12-4 over Rocky Mountain’s Ben Drysdale); 126 — Robert DeHerrera, Pueblo South (pins Palisade’s Justin Ray); 132 — Zach Shank, Olathe (pins Farmington, N.M.’s Eduardo Trevizo).

138 — Jace Lopez, Roosevelt (pins Grand Junction’s Dylan Thompson); 145 — Anthony Feller, G.J. Central (pins AW’s Tony Silva); 152 — Willy Holdren, GJC (3-1 over Montrose’s Marcus Velasquez); 160 — Jessie Hoffschneider, GJ (pins Monte Vista’s Austin Vance); 170 — David Witt, Grand Valley (Parachute) (12-4 over GJ’s Gage Casey). 182 — Josh Schoenberger, F-FC (pins Roosevelt’s Steve Frank); 195 — Rip Price, Air Academy (10-5 over P-South’s Hunter Reinert); 220 — Andy Armstrong, Eagle Valley (9-1 over GJC’s Thomas Holman); 285 — Trevor Gillen, Durango (5-3 over RM’s Tony Martinez).

Cheer squad takes 4th at state

By Joel Priest
Special to the Drum

Apparently, movie bombs and pom-poms are taken equally seriously in Telluride.

Finding some postseason atmosphere of their own as fall football brackets in most CHSAA classifications reached quarterfinal phases — THS’s prospective gridders suit up for Norwood — the Minerettes geared up for their sport’s grand finale with a National Cheerleaders Association/National Dance Alliance Western Colorado Championships win Nov. 19 in Grand Junction.

That was still three weeks before the 2011 State Spirit Championships in Denver.

And the Ignacio Cheer Squad, having worked climate-controlled volleyball matches as well as frigid nights on the IHS Field track backing the Bobcats in helmets and pads, was likely looking forward to a welcome Thanksgiving Break.

But when it came time to travel to the Denver Coliseum on Dec. 10, both the well-decorated program from San Miguel County and the little-known bunch from La Plata County were in the building, each

believing the Class 2A cheer title would be leaving with them.

And though only one group out of the 21 entered would depart as state champions, if all left the dangerous sport — at its most intense moment — uninjured, all could still claim victory.

With a preliminary score of 71.67, Ignacio found themselves in uncharted waters: in contention for the crown. Sitting in fourth, the Cats had already beaten Eastern Plains force Cheyenne Wells, and would be going for the gold alongside Resurrection Christian (Loveland), Dove Creek and Telluride.

Mary Kate Adams, ShaRay Rock, Teresa Zito, Aly Troup, Kayla Knipp, DaShona Lloyd, Shannon Mestas, Gabbie Bufanda, Cheyenne Zito and Sydney Santisteven had a maximum 2 minutes, 30 seconds of performance time remaining to put IHS on the state’s map in a way not seen before.

Rated by presentation, fundamental skills, group technique, crowd appeal, and overall effect, Ignacio had to go their biggest, highest and loudest to sway the six judges. Five of their scores were used, with the highest and the lowest dropped and the

remaining three averaged to determine the overall score.

The overall score: a 68.5. Not enough to catch RC’s 71.33 (down from their preliminary 74.17), DC’s 77.5 (up from 75.17), nor THS’ winning 79.33 (up from 79), but plenty for a top-four finish and a great reference point for coach Jessica Musch to build from in 2012.

Cheyenne Zito was named to the All-State roster.

Having broken into the cheer scene with a third-place day in 2004, Telluride’s title was its first since its 2005-06 repeat. Also representing the San Juan Basin League in ’11 was Dolores, sixth-best (68.17) in the prelims — more than 2.5 points behind Cheyenne Wells and 3.5 behind IHS.

Telluride’s Carla Stauder and DC’s Zoey Young also were SJBLers tabbed All-State, coached respectively by Liza Huet and Karla Knuckles.

Ignacio’s result was the program’s best at state since consecutive sevenths in the Class 3A pom prelims back in 2000-01 and a sixth in ’02.

Ignacio placed ninth in ’03, and later 18th in the cheer prelims in ’06 — the Bobcats’ last championships-qualifying appearance until ’11.

Be still and know

By Don Oliver
Special to the Drum

When I sat down to write this column, it dawned on me it was too easy to write.

It was as if I had written these words before. So I checked two of my previous columns, and sure enough I had written about this subject before. I realized I couldn’t put new lipstick on that pig and sell it again.

So I had to do some research (go fly-fishing) for a new column.

I pulled into the parking lot of an area I haven’t fly-fished for a long time and immediately started my boot-and-suit routine. Daylight was wasting; I needed to get on the water.

Then something strange occurred to me: Mine was the only vehicle in the lot, and it was 10 a.m. Had the world ended and I wasn’t aware of it?

With a little more thought, it dawned on me: It was late fall. Then I remembered why I love to fly-fish in late fall: All the tourist have gone home. It’s too cold for rafters and swimmers. The residents of Durango were at work at their desks.

Only us old, retired curmudgeons, those unemployed, or those able to call in sick were going to be on the river.

I slowed myself down, and



took in all the bright colors. The sky was cobalt blue and the color chart for the trees went from yellow to bright red. It was still shirtsleeve weather, with a light breeze keeping all the unwanted bugs at bay.

As I sat on the back of my truck, now slowly gearing up, the memory of a Bible verse entered my mind. At least I think it is a Bible verse, or maybe part of one: “Be still and know that I am near.”

Not being a formal religious person, far be it from me to define who “I” is. There is plenty of stuff for me to worry myself with without delving into things I know little about.

But the verse stayed in mind. It was like when a song is suddenly in your mind and no matter what you do, it won’t go away. Not to be deterred, I had fish to catch. I drank a last swig

from my Perrier, put a fresh chew in my mouth, and headed for the river.

But I found myself moving with a slowness and stillness I usually don’t exhibit. I got to the river and just stood there taking it all in, the beauty and solitude. Standing there I suddenly knew, he, she, it — whatever you refer to as a higher authority — was near.

But not in a singular form; those that have gone before me, especially those that fly-fished, were around me.

They were there not in the shape of a ghost sitting on a rock telling me what fly to use. No, I knew just the thought of those folks was going to make for a great day. And truly, if I hadn’t found myself in a situation that allowed me to be silent, I don’t think I would have been aware of their nearness.

I was aware that when I missed an easy strike someone who had helped teach me to fly-fish was laughing. Mind you: not with me, but at me. And I bet it was a deep-bellied chortle.

So when it’s my time to be gone, I look forward to a belly laugh that brings the response, “If I feel that laugh one more time, I’m taking up golf.”

Wouldn’t it be even more fun if we could get that feeling any old time?

Cow elk harvested



photo courtesy/Karla Tucson

Karla Tucson harvested this cow elk on Dec. 18 with the company of her husband and cousin.